(a) whether the Government have been providing financial aid to some neighbouring counties;

(b) whether there is any mechanism to ensure that the financial aid is utilised for the purpsoes for which it has been given;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The bulk of financial aid extended by the Government of India whether as credit or grant is project linked. The aid is disbursed either on reimbursement basis or on the physical progress of the project with constant monitoring by both sides.

Extension of Janata Cloth Scheme to Handloom Sector

*436. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the Janata Cloth Scheme to lungies, towels, napkins etc. in order to provide some relief to handloom weavers who are in a miserable conditions;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Lungies have already been allowed for production under the Janata Cloth Scheme. The Scheme provides for a great amount of flexibility in determining the items to be produced. Central Government from time to time reviews the list of items allowed for production on the basis of identified consumer preferences of the target group and on the recommendations of the State Level Implementation Committees (SLIC). The items like towels and napkins can also be included if specific proposals to this effect are received from SLIC of the concerned State.

(b) and (c). The Janata Cloth Scheme which originally envisaged production of cotton sarees, dhoties and lungies only in counts upto 40 s has been suitably revised allowing production of cotton items such as sarees, dhoties, lungies, shirting and long cloth in counts upto and including 60s. Production of woollen items such as shoddy blankets, shoddy shawl, pure wool shawl, lio/pattu or gents shawl and woollen cloth in running length have also been allowed from 1.4.1989 on popular demand from the weavers in hill areas nd areas of woollen production with view to providing sustained employment to these weavers. In addition to these, items of regional and area specific consumer preference like Adivasi Saree, Ghagra, Lugudi, Pchara, Odhni, Mekhala, Dekhana, Chrihti, Phenk etc. have also been approved for production under the scheme.

[*Translation*]

Purchase of Jute by JCI

*437. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI RAM SHARN YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of raw jute during last year and the quantity purchased by the Jute

Corporation of India in each state;

(b) whether the purchase made was only one third of the raw jute produced in that year and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES(SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The estimated production of raw jute and the quantity purchase by JCI during the 1990-91 jute season is given below:

(in lakh bales)

State	*Production*	*Procurement by JCI & Cooperatives*
Assam	10.7	1.01
Bihar	10.0	0.72
Meghalaya	0.6	0.02
Orissa	4.3	0.08
Uttar Pradesh	1.0	-
Tripura	0.9	0.01
West Bengal	55.0	6.40
Andhra Pradesh	6.0	0.28
Other States	1.5	-
All India	90.0	8.52

(b) JCI and Cooperatives purchased about one tenth of the total production of raw jute in the 1990-91 jute season and have, till 11-12-91, purchased 8.53 lakh quintals of raw jute during the 1991-92 jute season.

(c) JCI was not required to undertake price support operations during the 1990-91 jute reason because the prices of raw jute ruled at levels higher than the minimum support prices. regards the 1991-92 jute season, JCI has directed its purchase centres to purchase all the raw jute that is offered for sale at minimum support prices. JCI has not been able to increase commercial purchases of raw jute for want of indents from jute mills. However, JCI is still in the market and is continuing purchases of raw jute to prevent distress Sales and to protect the interests of the jute farmers.

[*English*]

Value of Rupee Vis-a-Vis Pound Sterling

*438. SHRI VIJAYA NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: